



TBPG Fall Newsletter 2019

Do you reside in a Texas declared disaster county?

On September 19, 2019, Texas Governor Greg Abbott declared a [State of Disaster](#) in several Texas counties that were impacted by Tropical Storm Imelda.

TBPG recognizes that licensed P.G.s and registered Geoscience Firms are an important part of disaster recovery and rebuilding efforts. We also recognize that many of our license holders reside in the impacted counties and are personally recovering from storm impacts. As such, TBPG has taken actions to assist our license holders over the next few months.

For more information: [TBPG Disaster Response Actions](#)

The Chairman's Column



An Update On The New Advisory Committees for TBPG.....

The board has been hard at work developing our procedures to form advisory committees that will help us with specific issues. At the last meeting, the Board approved the process and authorized the staff to begin recruiting for these new advisory committees. Our goal for these advisory committees (ACs) is to have you, the regulated community, get more involved with TBPG and help us in setting the direction for the next few years. So, how are these ACs going to work? Let me try to explain:

The Board has four permanent committees (Board committees, or BCs):

1. General Issues
2. Compliance & Enforcement
3. Application Review & Continuing Education
4. Financial Review/Strategic planning

When an issue comes to light, the board and staff must first decide which of the four Board committees will take primarily responsibility for addressing that issue. Usually, the Board committee and staff do the research, develop recommendations and/or regulations, and present a final recommendation to the board for a board vote.

With the addition of ACs for certain issues, the process will look like this: the Board committee will determine the need for an AC and develop a "charge" or goal for the AC, the desired size of the AC, a set of desirable qualifications for AC members, and a timeline for completion of the work. The staff then search the database of licensees/firms, and match them with the desired qualifications. The staff will randomly generate requests to serve, process the responses received, verify the qualifications, and notify the AC committee members of their selection to serve. The AC is given the charge and asked to work on the issue, ultimately providing a recommendation to the Board Committee, who

would then decide when to bring it to the full Board for a vote. At that point, that specific AC ends because the issue has been addressed (unless the full Board sends it back to committee for additional research).

Our hope is that the addition of ACs will provide opportunities for more of our community to be involved in the decision-making process and to have more contact with the Board itself. Since the commitment to an AC is short-term, we hope that you will respond positively when you receive a request to serve, and perhaps, more importantly, that you might reach out first and tell us of your desire to participate with these ACs!

This is your call to action – reach out and tell us you want to serve on an AC or perhaps put your name on a list to be a subject matter expert (SME) for us! See contact information below.

Becky L. Johnson, P.G.

Chair, Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists

Opportunities at TBPG

Opportunities to Volunteer!

Are you interested in serving as a Subject matter Expert or on an Advisory Committee for TBPG?

TBPG is looking for volunteers to assist with various issues that come before the Board. We need input from industry experts on issues as they arise.

Potential issues/topics include licensing opportunities, firm registration, and training opportunities.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact TBPG by [E-mail](#) or by phone at (512) 936-4401.

TBPG is Hiring!

TBPG is seeking a Compliance Coordinator.



Please review the job posting below, and submit an application to us if you (or someone you know) is interested in this position.

[Compliance Coordinator Employment Posting](#)

More information can be found on the TBPG website: [Employment](#)

New and Improved! Upcoming Changes To TBPG Online

After months of development, TBPG will roll out a new online license system by the end of this year. Our goal has been to offer a more user-friendly and reliable online experience for our existing license holders to renew their license, track continuing education credits, and submit any required licensing documentation. Currently, only license renewals are accepted online but our new system will allow new license applications to be submitted online as well.

Why is this change needed?

- Cost efficiency
- Reliability
- New online services are streamlined
- Less down time
- Reduced ongoing costs related to maintenance

Be on the lookout for additional information on the status of this rollout in our next Newsletter. We will also provide updated information on our website @ www.tbpg.state.tx.us

New and Re-appointed TBPG Board Members

Governor Greg Abbott made a new appointment to the Texas Board of Professional Geoscientists (TBPG).

New Board Member Ed Janak, P.G., a licensed Soil Scientist in Texas, was appointed to the Board. Current Board Members W. David Prescott, II, P.G., and Drusilla Knight-Villarreal were reappointed to the Board.

Their terms will expire in February 2025.

See: [Press Release](#)

Thank you, Dr. Hallmark!

Many thanks to outgoing Board Member and former TBPG Chairman, Dr. C. Thomas Hallmark, Ph.D., P.G.



Dr. Hallmark has served as a member of the Board since **2007**. He spent many hours representing TBPG as a subject matter expert for the Council of Examiners at the National Associations of State Boards of Geology meetings, and also served as a subject matter expert for the Council of Soil Science Examiners. He is past Chairman of TBPG.

On behalf of TBPG, thank you for your contributions to TBPG's mission and for your work on behalf of the State of Texas. We will miss you!



Congratulations on your retirement, Wes!

TBPG's Enforcement Coordinator T. Wesley McCoy, P.G. has retired! Wes has been an integral part of TBPG's enforcement program for over eight years, and we really appreciate his many accomplishments.

On behalf of TBPG, thank you Wes, for your contributions to TBPG's Enforcement Program and for your work for the State of Texas!

Outreach Activities

Mark Varhaug, P.G., C.P.G., and TBPG Board Member, gave an outreach presentation on ethics recently at the **Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG Texas Chapter)** Summer Meeting on August 9-10, 2019.



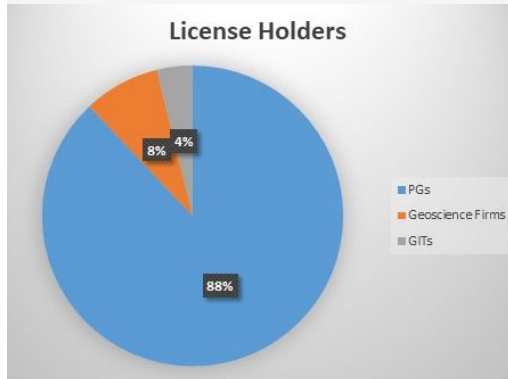
Becky Johnson, P.G., Board Chair, gave an ethics presentation for the **Society of Texas Environmental Professionals** on September 27th for the Fort Worth chapter.

Rene D. Truan, TBPG Executive Director, provided legislative and agency updates to the following groups.

- **Austin Geological Society (AGS)** on August 26th. To learn more about AGS visit: <http://www.austingeosoc.org/>

- **Texas Commission on Environmental Quality** P.G. Work Group on September 17th.
- **Houston Geological Society (HGS)** Environmental and Engineering Dinner Meeting on October 9th. To learn more about HGS visit: https://www.hgs.org/membership_overview

Licensing

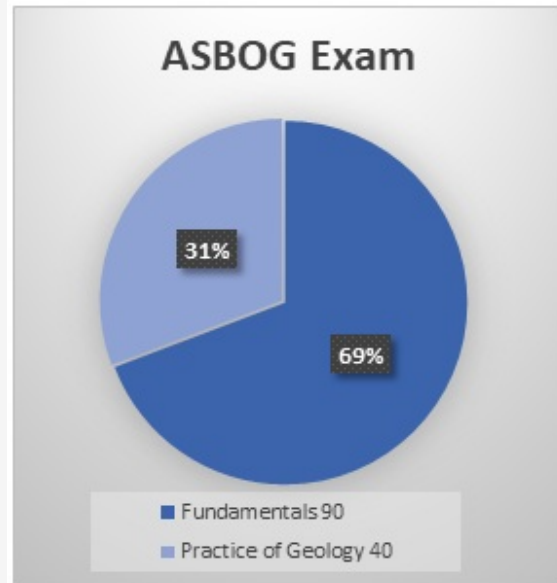


Licensing Numbers

- Prof. Geoscientists - 3614
- Firms - 349
- GITs - 158

ASBOG Examinations October 2019

- **90 individuals** registered for the ASBOG Fundamentals of Geology exam.
- **40 individuals** registered for the ASBOG Practice of Geology exam.



Highlights from the August 23, 2019 Board Meeting

Waiver Request. One application for P.G. license was unanimously approved for waiver of the Fundamentals examination contingent upon verification of 15 years qualifying work experience.

Adoption of amendments. The Board unanimously adopted amendments to 22 TAC 851.20, 851.22, 851.23, 851.40, 851.41, and repeal of 851.24. These adoptions allow TBPG to be in compliance with statutory changes in the Texas Geoscience Practice Act. These adoptions are in the process of being filed with the Texas Register.

Agreed Board Orders. The Board unanimously adopted Agreed Board Orders for Complaints 2019002 and 2019003, with Board Members Brandon Stowers and Steven Fleming being recused.

Formation of Advisory Committees. The Board unanimously granted authority to form Advisory Committees, regarding the identification of potential licensing opportunities and firm registration.

November 14, 2019

9 a.m. Application Review and Continuing Education Committee

1 p.m. General Issues Committee

3 p.m. Compliance and Enforcement Committee

November 15, 2019

8 a.m. Financial Review and Strategic Planning Committee

9 a.m. TBPG Board Meeting

We welcome any suggestions you may have to improve our service to this State, our license holders, and to the geosciences community. Additionally, we welcome any ideas or suggestions on information that would be beneficial to include in future newsletters. In that regard, please feel free to send any comments or suggestions to me by email at rtruan@tbpge.texas.gov

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